

In the Specification:

Please Substitute the Following Paragraph for the first Paragraph of the Section Entitled:
EMBODIMENT FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION (page 10, line 4):

DI

The mortar grouting type joint for reinforcing bars of the present invention (hereinafter referred to as the "joint") will be described with reference to the drawings. The joint 1 of the present invention consists of a hollow cylindrical body having an opening cover 2 at its end, a bolt hole 8 in its side wall, and supporting protrusions [s] 5 on its inner wall surface. A reinforcing bar 12 inserted through a circular hole 3 provided in the opening cover 2 is supported by and secured to the joint by means of a bolt 13 threaded through the bolt hole 8, the supporting protrusions [s] 5, and the edge of the circular hole 3 of the opening cover 2. In the joint of the present invention, the supporting protrusions 5 consist of a pair of thin-walled members extending in parallel in the longitudinal direction of the hollow cylindrical body. The portion of each thin-walled member supporting the reinforcing bar inserted through the opening cover 2 (reinforcing bar supporting portion) 6 constitutes the apex, the thin-walled member having a ridge line 7 sloping toward the opening cover 2 through which the reinforcing bar is inserted, and having contact points 22 with the cylindrical body [20]. Note that the ridge line may be a straight line or an appropriately curved line concave or convex with respect to the wall surface of the hollow cylindrical body.

Please substitute the following paragraph in its entirety for the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6:

D2

That is, when, in performing reinforcing bar connection, the joint is engaged with one reinforcing bar side (e.g., the reinforcing bar 12-a side (hereinafter referred to as side A), the reinforcing bar first comes into contact with the supporting protrusions [s] 5 (arranged on side A of the joint) sloping toward the side A opening cover 2 through which the reinforcing bar is first inserted, and is automatically guided toward the reinforcing bar supporting portions 6 while sliding on the pair of thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusions [s] 5, until it is arranged coaxially with the joint

on the supporting protrusion 5 side of the joint. As the engagement further progresses, the above-described reinforcing bar comes into contact with the ridge line portion sloping on the opening cover 2 side of the supporting protrusions 5 installed on the other side (side B which is opposite to side A) of the joint, and is automatically guided toward the reinforcing bar supporting portions 6 while sliding on the pair of thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusions 5, until it is arranged coaxially with the joint also on side B of the joint. Next, when the joint is engaged with the other reinforcing bar (12-b) substantially aligned therewith, this reinforcing bar also becomes coaxial with the joint on both side A and side B thereof. The pairs of thin-walled members associated with the respective reinforcing bars 12-a and 12-b are separated by a substantially linear wall section 20 [22]. Next, the joint is pulled back by its half length toward the first reinforcing bar, and the contact position between the two reinforcing bars is mated with the longitudinal central portion of the joint. By this single reciprocal movement of the joint, the two reinforcing bars can easily attain a coaxial relationship. Thereafter, the bolt 13 is threaded in to fasten the reinforcing bar to the joint, whereby it is possible to prevent the coaxial relationship from being disturbed by the coaxial adjustment operation of other reinforcing bar pairs. This effect can be achieved by the fact that the thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusions have an angle shape ridge line sloping on both sides of the joint.

Please substitute the following paragraph in its entirety for the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 6:

By arranging the pair of thin-walled members 5 such that the distance between them continuously increases from the reinforcing bar supporting portion 6 toward the opening cover 2 at one or both ends of the hollow cylindrical member, it is possible to guide the reinforcing bar more smoothly toward the reinforcing bar supporting portion 6. Also, when the thin-walled members are arranged perpendicularly to the above-mentioned line segment 14, the releasing from the joint mold equipped with supporting protrusions [s] is advantageously facilitated.

Please substitute the following paragraph in its entirety for the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 15:

D4
In the joint of the present invention, from the viewpoint of appropriately supporting the reinforcing bar by the supporting protrusions, it is desirable that the distance between each of the reinforcing bar supporting portions 6 of the pair of thin-walled members constituting the supporting protrusions [s] be set smaller than the diameter of the circular hole 3 of the opening cover 2, that is, the diameter of the reinforcing bar. Further, from the viewpoint of arranging and fixing the reinforcing bar and the joint coaxially, it is desirable that the distance from the reinforcing bar supporting portion 6 of each thin-walled member to the central axis of the hollow cylindrical body be substantially equal to the radius of the circular hole 3 of the opening cover 2, that is, the radius of the reinforcing bar. Further, to smoothen the guiding of the reinforcing bar by the supporting protrusions [s] 5 and to strengthen the support of the reinforcing bar by the supporting protrusions [s] 5, it is desirable that the opposing surfaces of the pair of thin-walled members be formed as surfaces 15 having an inclination angle facilitating the guiding of the reinforcing bar as shown in Figs. 2, 4, etc.